Novacon 32
Read Me Inside!

This publication gives you all the information we think you'll need whilst you are inside the Quality Hotel; for information about eating out, cashpoints etc., please refer to your Read Me Outside!

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	10.00 Panel: Once More... With Ceiling	10.30 Panel: Loving the Alien
	11.30 Book Auction	12.30 Art Auction
	1.30 Panel: Glittering Prizes	
	3.00 Guest of Honour Speech: Ian McDonald	3.00 Special Guest: Prof Kevin Warwick
	4.30 Quiz: Movie Masterbrain	5.00 Awards Ceremony
	6.00 Panel: On The Racks	6.00 Cromwell Suite: James White Award
7.00 Opening Ceremony		7.00 King Charles Suite: Int'l Beer Tasting and Celtic Cuisine
7.30 Guest of Honour Interview: Ian McDonald	7.30 Fannish Musical	
	8.30 Fan Funds Interview: TransAtlantic Tobes	
9.00 Science: Rings Around The Earth	9.30 Fan Funds Auction	
10.30 Chatshow: So Not Graham Norton	10.30 Magical Mystery Tour and Disco (until around 2am)	

The Programme

By Steve Green

Unless otherwise stated, all of Novacon 32's programme items are being held in the Oliver Cromwell Suite.

The artshow will be held on Saturday and on Sunday morning in the Sedgley, Brierley and Netherton Suites (if sufficient exhibits arrive early in the Friday afternoon, we'll try to open it in the early evening).

The King Charles Suite will house the dealers' room, as well as Sunday evening's traditional beer tasting (book your tickets as soon as possible).

Finally, the Dudley Suite will feature a handful of video items, including a rare screening on Saturday morning of the recent *Doomwatch* tv movie, introduced by its author (and our guest of honour), Ian McDonald.

If you have any queries, please speak to the silver-waistcoated Duty Committee Member.

Friday, 1 November

7:00pm: **Opening Ceremony**
In which we introduce our guest of honour, Ian McDonald, as well as many of the other notable writers and artists joining us this weekend.
Please note this will be followed immediately by:
7:30pm: **Guest of Honour Interview**
Leading sf critic Paul Kincaid speaks to Ian McDonald about his influences, his acclaimed novels and his parallel career in films.
Paul Kincaid, Ian McDonald.

9:00pm: **Rings Around The Earth**
Our science stream opens with a presentation on the future of satellite technology by Gerry Webb, general director of Commercial Space Technologies.
Gerry Webb.

10:30pm: **So Not Graham Norton**
Mr Norton is Irish, slim, fashion-conscious and a successful chatshow host. Your humble servant is none of these, but I do have two top guests, Bob Monkhouse's spare jokebook and a broomstick, plus the first Annual TransAtlantic Astral Pole Challenge
Iain Banks, Iain M Banks, Dave Cooper, Steve Green [M], Gwyneth Jones.

Saturday, 2 November

10:00am: **Once More... With Ceiling**
Fresh from their victory in San José, representatives from the Interaction (the 63rd Worldcon, to be held in Glasgow in 2005) team unveil their plans and offer you an opportunity to put your own ideas forward. No firearms allowed in the auditorium.
Margaret Austin, Vince Docherty [M], Sparks.

10:45am (Dudley Suite): **I Am Peter Cushing**
Or not, as the winner of this year's Delta Award at the Festival of Fantastic Films soon proves, introduced by one of the three judges. (10 minutes)
Steve Green.

11:00am (Dudley Suite): **Doomwatch**
Channel 5's brave attempt to resurrect the chilling BBC sf series, introduced by its screenwriter, Ian McDonald. (1 hour, 45 minutes)
Ian McDonald.

11:30am: **Book Auction**
Gasp in horror as banknotes and small change are literally sucked out of your pockets and purses, to be replaced by grubby paperbacks with a rocket on the cover.
Chris Morgan, Rog Peyton

1:30pm: **Glittering Prizes**
Even the mass media has heard of the Hugo and Nebula Awards, but what of their lesser-known contemporaries? Representatives from the Clarke, Tiptree and White Awards discuss their aims and how each differentiates itself. (The 2002 James White Award will be presented here on Sunday.)
Jae Leslie Adams [Tiptree Award], James Bacon [White Award], Gwyneth Jones, Paul Kincaid [Clarke Award], Farah Mendlesohn [M, SF Foundation].

3:00pm: **Guest of Honour Speech**
His debut novel, *Desolation Road*, established Ian McDonald as one of Britain's most exciting SF authors. Here's your chance to meet him, as he celebrates the twentieth anniversary of his first sale.
Ian McDonald.

4.30pm: **Movie Masterbrain**
Know your Terrence from your Tarkovsky, or L Q Jones from Indiana? Turn up, tune in and prepare to look smug.
Tony Berry.

6:00pm: **On The Racks**
Is there more perilous a venture than the launch of an sf magazine? Perhaps, but several of our panel are determined to make a success of theirs.
Liz Holliday, Ben Jeapes, Stan Nicholls [stc], Mark Plummer [M], Jennifer Swift.
Please note this will be followed immediately by:
7.00pm (in the main bar): ***3SF* Tea Party**

7.30pm: **Booze Brothers**
Resurrected from its triumphant debut at Corflu in February, the latest project from fandom's answer to Andrew Lloyd Webber enjoys its UK debut in an entirely revamped form.
Ian Sorensen

TAFF winner Tobes Valois spills the beans on those awful colonials.
Dave Hicks [M], Tobes Valois.

9:30pm: **Fan Fund Auction**
Ever wanted to buy a luminous, chocolate-flavoured condom for a fiver?No matter: The League of Fan Funds takes no prisoners.
Bridget Bradshaw, Maureen Kincaid Speller, Alison Scott.
Please note that every successful bid over £2.50 wins the bidder a Novacon raffle ticket.

Have you cast your vote for the Nova Awards yet?

10:30pm (in the main bar): **Magical Mystery Tour**
Our resident wizard, Ray Bradbury, practices his arcane arts from table to table. (Ray's declined a major gig tonight to join us, so please show your appreciation after the show.)
Ray Bradbury.

11:30pm: **Disco Till You Drop**
Watch fans dance like teachers, to tunes from the C&K Roadshow. Till 2:00am.

Sunday, 3 November

10:30am: **Loving The Alien**
Our all-star cast of authors and artists discuss the joys and pitfalls of realising the unknowable.
Iain M Banks, Michael Cobley, Dave Hardy, John Meaney [M], Ian McDonald

12:30pm: **Art Auction**
Remember the book auction yesterday? Well, now shriek in terror as the gold fillings are wrenched free from your cavities, to be replaced by the original sketch for a grubby paperback with a rocket on the cover.
Chris Morgan, Rog Peyton.
Please note that successful bidders should collect their purchases before 3:00pm.

3:00pm: **I, Cyborg**
Closing our science stream, Professor Kevin Warwick – head of cybernetics at the University of Reading – discusses his pioneering work in bionics and his controversial vision of humanity's future.
Kevin Warwick.

5:00pm: **Awards Ceremony**
In which we show our appreciation of our guest of honour, Ian McDonald, announce the Nova Award winners for 2002, announce the top raffle winners and hint at our plans for Novacon 33.

6:00pm: **James White Award**
Although not technically part of the Novacon 32 programme, we are very pleased to host this year's prize-giving, administered by James Bacon.

7:00pm (in the King Charles Suite): **International Beer Tasting**
7:30pm (in the King Charles Suite): **Celtic Cuisine**
In which the committee relaxes and bids all guests and members farewell for another twelvemonth.

[M] = Moderator. Please note all timings are subject to change. Schedules will be posted throughout the convention, and we'll aim to announce any alterations during the programme itself.

Dave Lally's Programme

In addition to the highlights above the Dave Lally Programme will run from 4pm on Friday until Sunday afternoon in the Dudley Room (straight down the corridor Hotel reception, first syndicate room on your left after the stairs); see the flip chart outside for details of what Dave will have on offer.

Art Show

The Art Show will be in the Sedgley and Brierley Rooms (straight down the corridor past Hotel reception, second and third syndicate rooms on your left after the stairs). Next door, in the Netherton, you will find our CD ROM art show, which will feature the work of Meraylah Allwood, David A. Hardy, Colin Langeveld, Dave Carson and Martin McKenna.

They will be open from 4pm-6.45pm on Friday, 10am until 6pm on Saturday and on Sunday from 10am until noon, closing for the Art Auction.

We invited artists to write briefly about the work they have supplied on CD-ROM:

COLIN LANGEVELD: Following my recent acquisition of CARRARA STUDIO I have been experimenting with the varied effects created by the rendering of volume visible light. This can produce interesting and realistic images when applied to light streaming through foliage seen in forests when the sun sits low on the horizon, or catches dust motes as it enters a darkened room via a single window. It can also be quite spectacular if the window happens to be of the leaded, coloured type. Whether dust motes can be seen in outer space is questionable, nevertheless., I find the use of volume visible light in this setting adds an ambience that enhances the genre.

One of the main disadvantages of the rendered image can be seen in rock and terrain – the sharp definition and harsh angles that separate the varied shapes in rocks or the manner in which terrain meets water. Thanks to my wife and the gift of a graphics pad, I have, to a certain degree, overcome this. Add to this latest bit of kit, PHOTOSHOP 7 and 3D STUDIO VIZ, I am at presesnt on a new and exciting learning curve. The possibilities are endless.

Up to quite recently, the textures applied to my 3D models have been somewhat haphazard, and at times, difficult to lay on as I attempt to project the most realistic image possible. Fortunately, a useful little programme acquired via the net enables me to produce a two dimensional image of my model. This texture is then applied to the image and then rendered on to my model. I still have a lot to learn, but hopefully, I'm slowly getting there.

MERAYLAH ALLWOOD I have spent most of my life living in the countryside, or seeking the wild places where the veil between the worlds of spirit, or faery, is thinner. I have always painted using nature as my inspiration. I try to combine the dynamic worlds of folklore and mythology with the ecology and natural history of the subjects I illustrate. I love the connection between past mythologies and folklore and the present, the way those old stories have an uncanny way of weaving themselves into daily life, until they are somehow transformed once more and reborn as new tales each generation.

We can surely only marvel at the complexity and intricacies of the natural world, the web of life to which we ourselves owe our very existence. I feel that we have all lost so much with our modern mechanistic materialistic focus, so many of us living with our backs to nature, away from the knowledge of the Earth who bore us, and away from the magic that can inspire our imaginations to grow and seek out changes. I hope that in however small a way my paintings can be part of those inspirations.

DAVID A. HARDY This year I have tried to include images which were not on last year's CD-ROM (though there are a couple). I tried to include a good mixture: there are paintings and illustrations from years ago, like 'Proxima's Planet v.1' from *Challenge of the Stars* (with Patrick Moore, 1972). The later version is in *Visions of Space* (Dragon's World, 1989/1990 - of which, incidentally, I have managed to get hold of a few copies, brand new. If you missed it first time round, do have a word with me!)

Then there are recent paintings (ie. brushes, canvas and stuff), like 'Eruption on Io' and the three circular Earth/Moon/Mars paintings which form the jacket and endpapers of my new Paper Tiger book, *Hardyware* - and (shameless plug) I have included that jacket illo too. Several of the images on this CD are also in the book, but a lot are not, because they are too new or there just wasn't room for them. And there are several digital pieces, too. The most recent is the discovery of another new Jupiter-like planet of another star, which was announced to the media on 15 October 2001. It *is* digital - but the landscape may seem familiar to Tony Berry, as it was originally in a painting he commissioned, of the Pleiades. There are SF covers for *Analog* and books, space art, movie production art, diagrams, private commissions. . . a bit of everything, and hopefully something for everyone. And you may find some of them in the 'real' (as opposed to virtual) Art Show too!

DAVE CARSON has been working on & off as a professional fantasy illustrator for over 20 years and has five British Fantasy Awards to his name. Best known for his black & white Lovecarftian pen & ink work he has more recently experimented with various media such as sculpture and digital imagery which bring new depth and dimension to his twisted dark imagination. No wonder Brain Lumley has called him "the Master of tentacular pustularity". Long time buddy Robert Rankin has regularly used Dave as a character throughout his books and has called Dave "one of our most accomplished and original illustrators".

MARTIN MCKENNA is best known for his fantasy, horror and science fiction work as well as his long association with the games industry. Having cut his teeth with Games Workshop and the Fighting Fantasy books, Martin linked up with Eidos Interactive (home of Lara Croft) as a development team artist. He is currently working freelance on a number of projects. Martin has a British Fantasy Award as Best Artist to his name and an unhealthy interest in Dr Who.

The City in the Hedge of Whenever.

In honour of this year's **James White Award** being hosted by Novacon, ***Graham Andrews*** remembers the man himself.

I would have liked to pen a scholarly monograph about the very first Novacon (1971) and its guest-of-honour, James White. After all, I was there, with the Northern Ireland contingent (Jim & Peggy White, Bob &

Sadie Shaw and Seamus Lavery). But my every attempt ended up something like this:

Jim bought a round of drinks. I bought a round of drinks. Ditto Seamus and everybody else within hypno-ray range. Bob Shaw bought out the bar. Not so much name-dropping, then, as pint-downing – especially at Bob's Hum-and-Sway Party. I should, perhaps, mention the John Brunner Self –Sustaining Ego Award ceremony. (You'll just have to guess the winner's name.) And did Phillip really narrate all of Heinlein's *I Will Fear No Evil*, as an Alternative Program?

Who Knows . . . but I'm not even sure if the Good Gallifrayan Doctor was an Attending Member that year. If indeed present, he didn't stand us a round of drinks. "Everybody loves a Time Lord" –Hah! I can, however, hazily recall the pre-Novacon deliberations of The Belfast Science Fiction Group in Whites Cross-Time Tavern. (I might have made the middle bit up.)

HISTORICAL INTERLUDE

The Belfast Science Fiction Group of which I speak represented Second Irish Fandom, which followed seamlessly on from the First Irish Fandom founded by Walter Willis and James White in 1947.

SIF – or SUF, to distinguish Ulster from the 'Irish' Irish SF group that had sprung up in the meantime – began circa 1969. A "FANS WANTED" card was placed in the SF section of Harry Hall's second-hand bookshop (Smithfield Market, downtown Belfast—nostalgic sigh!) attracted new members. These new-blooders included Frank McKeever, Ed Dilworth, Tony Moran, Seamus Lavery, and Your Faithful chronicler. Today's TUF (Third Ulster Fandom) dates from 1981, when Jim gave some writing classes at the Belfast Workers Educational Association night school.

Anyhoo, we were all safely ensconced in the 'old' White's Tavern, which had not yet been blown up and later turned into the 'new' White's Tavern. The Group's motto was – and probably still is – " Don't tell us your Troubles." One unfortunate SUF member was questioned by a British Army Sergeant turned-out at Roadblock deployment. SUF member: " I'm just a science-fiction fan." BASTARD: "Yes, Yes but are you a Protestant science-fiction fan or a Catholic science-fiction fan?"

To His credit, Jim never told jokes like that. He Told Jokes like this instead:

The Medical Officer with a Good Irish Name aboard a coldsleep starship must take frequent times-out to monitor the health of his

popsicled colleagues and other livestock. Everyone and –thing is revived at Trip's End to find the M.O. has got himself sentient company. "I was lonely." He explains, "so I thought I'd thaw a pussy cat." *The Dream Millennium*, in embryonic form.

Bob Shaw threw up his hands in disgust at that one, which surprised even him, because he hadn't swallowed them in the first place. You can't beat the old ones, mush as you'd like to at times. Jim and Bob were then both employed by Short Brothers, the Belfast Aerospace company, where they kept up the same punishing schedule.

The Novacon invasion plan was finally settled, down to the last insignificant detail (the Bar-bill took that a little longer). A nervous traveller, Jim had to be convinced by All and Sundry (I'd forgotten to mention them) that Birmingham would be there when the Imperial Airways passenger plane arrived over the appropriate real estate. As he almost wrote (in *Tomorrow is Too Far*): "Air travel involves no major temporal displacement. It's just that everything in creation is moving in several directions at once."

The tides of time rolled on. We left White's Tavern at the legally correct but morally imbecilic time of 10.00 PM. (Well the last buses did leave Belfast city centre at eleven o'clock – sharp. After that came the *I am Legend Stuff*.) We duly wended our not-merry-enough way to what was then Copper Griddle restaurant/hamburger joint. When Bob Shaw espied Francis Curley, Ltd., the natty gent's tailoring establishment, an unholy gleam appeared in his eye. The right eye, I think. No—the left.

"If Short Brothers merged with Francis Curley," he said into the dark night of our souls, "would the new firm be called Short and Curley's?"

The ensuing collective "Groan!" was eerily reminiscent of a dyspeptic banshee – and we all know what *that's* like. Jim, however, maintained a dignified silence. Until we reached the Copper Griddle, when ...but the swirling mists of Bushmills – I mean – chaos – are fast Closing in.

Food and Drink

Breakfast

Breakfast will be served in the Saddle Room Restaurant (next to the bar) from 8am until 10.30am on Saturday and Sunday, and 7am until 9.30am on Monday.

Lounge (No 10) Bar

Will be open from 10.30am each day and cash will be accepted in payment for drinks throughout the weekend.

Also throughout the weekend Soup & Roll for £1.50 and a selection of filled baguettes (salad & filling) at £2 each will be available from the bar.

Pots of Tea and mugs of Coffee will also be available from the bar throughout the weekend for £1.25 per serving, chocolate bars will also be on sale.

The Hotel have laid on a supply of Black Sheep Best Bitter (3.8% abv) at the special price of £2.10 per pint. In addition the Hotel have arranged a supply of draught Addlestones Cider especially for the con at £2.35 per pint.

In addition to the £2.10 per pint price for the Black Sheep, special con prices have been arranged with the Hotel for the following: Worthington and Carling £2.10 per pint; Grolsch, Caffreys and Murphys at £2.35 per pint; 6 bottles of Tiger Beer for £10; glasses of lemonade or coke at 75p each; orange juice and lemonade at £1.50 per pint.

Convention Menu

Evening meals will be served in the Saddle Room Restaurant; Lunch time menus in the No 10 Lounge Bar on Saturday from 12.00-14.00, with a limited version throughout Sunday afternoon.
But please note that Sunday Lunch will be available in the Saddle Room Restaurant -- a full Roast Carvery at just £6.50 per head.

Friday

From the Saddle Room Restaurant
6pm-8.00pmChoice of Lasagne / Steak & Mushroom Pie / Salad Bar with Cold Meat Selection / Hot Vegetarian Option £6.00 per person (for one plate & visit to servery) £1.50 extra for dessert (from the dessert "trolley")

From the Saddle Room Restaurant
10.00-11pm *Special Dia de Los Muertos Menu* Chilli & Rice £3.50
Optional extras (only available with main meal): Flour Tortillas £0.25 or 5 for £1.00 Tacos £0.25 or 5 for £1.00

Saturday

From the No 10 Lounge Bar
12.00-2.00pm Selection of filled baguettes with Salad £2 each
Soup & Roll £1.50 Jacket Potatoes & Fillings £2.00
Salad Bar £2.00

From the Saddle Room Restaurant
6pm-8pmChoice of Hot Meat Meals / Salad Bar with Cold Meat Selection / Hot Vegetarian Option £6.00 per person (for one plate & visit to servery) £1.50 extra for dessert (from the dessert "trolley")

From the Saddle Room Restaurant
10pm-11pm *Special Balti Night Menu* Curry & Rice £3.50 *Optional extras (only available with main meal):* Naan Bread £1.00 Onion Bhajis £0.75 Vegetable Pakora £0.75 Poppadums £0.25 or 5 for £1.00

Sunday
From the Saddle Room Restaurant
12.00-14.30pm Roast Carvery Selection / Hot Vegetarian Option
(NB: one course £6.50 per head)

From the No 10 Lounge Bar
All afternoonSelection of filled baguettes with Salad £2 each
Soup & Roll £1.50

(In the King Charles Suite)
7.30pm *Celtic Evening*
The Irish Hot Buffet Food will be served in the King Charles Suite but tickets (@ £6.00 per head) must be purchased in advance from the Novacon Registration Hatch before 5pm on Sunday:
-- Boiled Bacon
-- Vegetarian Coddle
(potatoes, vegetarian sausages & corn)
-- Cabbage
-- Culcannon
-- Scallion Mash
-- Champ or Turnip
-- Soda Bread

(From the No 10 Lounge Bar)
11pm-Midnight Bacon/Sausage Baps on sale for £1.20 each – should help absorb some of that beer!

General Information

Novacon Registration Hatch

The Novacon Registration Hatch will be open:
Friday: 4pm-6.45pm and 7.30pm-10pm for N32 Registrations ONLY.

Saturday: 10am-3pm and 4.30pm-8pm for all Novacon business.
Sunday: 10am-4.45pm for all Novacon/BSFG business.

From Saturday morning onwards the hatch will be selling: Novacon 32 full memberships at £40 and day memberships at £10 Friday, £20 Saturday and £15 Sunday; a variety of Novacon merchandise and publications from previous Novacons (£2 per set for Specials and Programme Books and a few Novacon 25 T-Shirts illustrated by David A. Hardy for just £10 each!); BEER BADGES for the Beer Tasting (£5.00 per person or your 3 bottles of beer); tickets for the Irish Hot Buffet Food at £6 (on sale until 5pm Sunday); memberships to Novacon 33 (just £28.00 at Novacon 32, rising to £32.00 after the con); raffle tickets in aid of the RNIB's Books for the Blind Project.

Dealers' Room

This is in the King Charles Suite and will be open from 4pm until 6.45pm on Friday, 10am until 6pm Saturday and 10am until 4pm on Sunday. Times are subject to change.

The Drink...

In honour of their victory Interaction, the 2005 World SF Convention, have donated a large amount of Scottish beer to give our beer tasting a distinctly Celtic flavour this year.

To further compliment this Celtic theme we asked our (Irish) Hotel Manager to instruct his (Irish) chef to put together a special menu of food in honour of our (Irish) Guest of Honour Ian McDonald. This has been done, but more of that elsewhere, back to the beer tasting....

This latest in a long series of Novacon Beer Tastings will again be using the ever-popular BYOB (bring your own beer) format. To get the ball rolling, as mentioned above, Interaction, the 2005 World SF Convention, have donated a large amount of Scottish beer, in addition to this the convention will supply a few interesting bottles - the rest is up to you!

To partake of the *beer*, all you need to do is bring at least *three* bottles of your favourite British or foreign beer to the convention and check them in at the Novacon Registration Hatch when you arrive. In return you will receive a Technicolor "*Beer Badge*" which will entitle you to drink the beer at the Tasting on Sunday. Alternatively, you can also take part in the Tasting by buying a *"Beer Badge"* for £5.00 from the Novacon Registration Hatch.

All Novacon members are welcome to attend the Tasting. The

convention will supply an assortment of exotic and/or unusual non-alcoholic drinks at the Tasting, which will be free to everyone, but only those with "Beer Badges" will be entitled to drink the beer and only those with "*Irish Food Tickets*" will be able to partake of that culinary delight.

The Celtic Beer Tasting will start at 7pm on Sunday in the King Charles Suite. (The Irish Food will be served from 7.30pm only to those people who have purchased tickets at £6.00 per head, see elsewhere for details.)

[Please remember, although we have come to an arrangement with the Quality Hotel regarding the Beer Tasting, this does not extend to you bringing in your own supplies of drink elsewhere during the con. The Hotel can and will charge corkage to people smuggling food or drink into the hotel!]

The Food...

The Irish Food will be served in the King Charles Suite on Sunday night from 7.30pm, but tickets (£6.00 per head) must be purchased in advance from the Novacon Hatch before 5pm on the Sunday of the con. (In addition, from 11pm-12am the hotel will be selling a late night snack of bacon/sausage baps, @ £1.20 each, to help soak up the beer!)

Gophers

If you ***have*** volunteered to be a gopher or if you ***wish*** to volunteer please report to Alice Lawson the Ops Room (the Hatherton, up the stairs, which are down the corridor from Hotel reception).

R.N.I.B. Raffle

If you wish to purchase tickets for the annual raffle in aid of RNIB's Books for the Blind Project, Anne Woodford will be selling them around the con, but tickets will also be available from the Novacon Registration Hatch -- Saturday onwards. In a change from established tradition, prizes will ***not*** be given out as the draw is made at the Award Ceremony. Instead prizes will be available for collection from a table set up in the Oliver Cromwell suite ***after*** the ceremony and winning numbers will be posted on the flip chart near the Novacon Registration Hatch.

We have a wide variety of prizes, which will be listed on the flip chart near the Novacon Registration Hatch from Saturday onwards.

Operations

As we are sure you are aware Novacon, like most conventions in Britain, is run by volunteers and we can't have too many of them! So if you are willing to help out at the convention -- anything from moving chairs to helping with tech ops or working on the programme, please contact Alice Lawson, in the Ops Room.

Operations will be in the Hatherton Room, like last year we shall be operating a ~~fascist~~ 'tidy' Ops Room policy, with designated areas for stuff to be stored and no non-essential furniture (or people). However, you will still be able to leave coats and bags in Ops on request and **at your own risk**.

No Smoking

Please refrain from smoking in the Programme & Dealers Rooms, Art Show, and in other designated areas. Please note that the *smoking* area of the Bar is to the left of the Main Entrance, facing Reception.

Dire Warnings

Please remember that the Quality Hotel is in the business of selling accommodation, drink and food for profit. Neither the management of the Quality Hotel nor the Novacon committee will approve of people "crashing" in rooms they haven't paid for, and/or smuggling food/drink into the hotel. The Novacon committee will obviously support the hotel in any dispute with members of Novacon caught "crashing" and/or "smuggling".

Badges

As we have (again) failed to fill the hotel there will be non-convention guests in the Hotel. It is therefore essential that you wear your con badge AT ALL TIMES! If you do not you may be refused service in the con bars and food from the con menu. You WILL be challenged by our own security staff and prevented from entering function spaces and Hotel Staff may challenge anyone not wearing a badge.

Duplicate Room Keys

We have made arrangements with the Hotel so that if you are sharing a room and require a key each you should be able to get one this year. (Unfortunately if you are in one of the 30 executive suites you cannot have a key each as they have a different locks to the other rooms in the Hotel.)

However, if you require a key each you should have notified the Hotel of this on arrival. You may not be able to change your mind later because the Hotel will have programmed 100 rooms to accept duplicate key sets before we arrive. This is a time-consuming process and there are a limited number of these duplicate key sets available – the Hotel does not normally use them and is buying them in especially for Novacon.

If you do have a key each please don't lose them! If you lose your key two new keys will be need to be issued immediately as your sharer's key won't work after you've used your new key! As there are limited quantities of these duplicate keys available you may find that if you've lost your key the Hotel will be forced to reprogram the lock on your room to take their standard single key system again.

If you do not have a key each you can still easily gain access to your room by either tracking down your sharer or by asking Hotel Reception to let you in with a master, but please don't get them doing this all the time. The hotel will require you to produce your keycard as proof that it is your room, so please ensure you carry it.

Crèche

The Crèche is situated in the Ashmore Room (down the corridor past Hotel receptions, all the way past the Art Show Rooms, on the corner). Please address all queries to Richard Standage or Helena Bowles.

Check In & Out

Check-in time is from 2pm and check-out by 11am on the day of departure. (Bedrooms will be cleaned between 1pm and 3pm).

Left Luggage

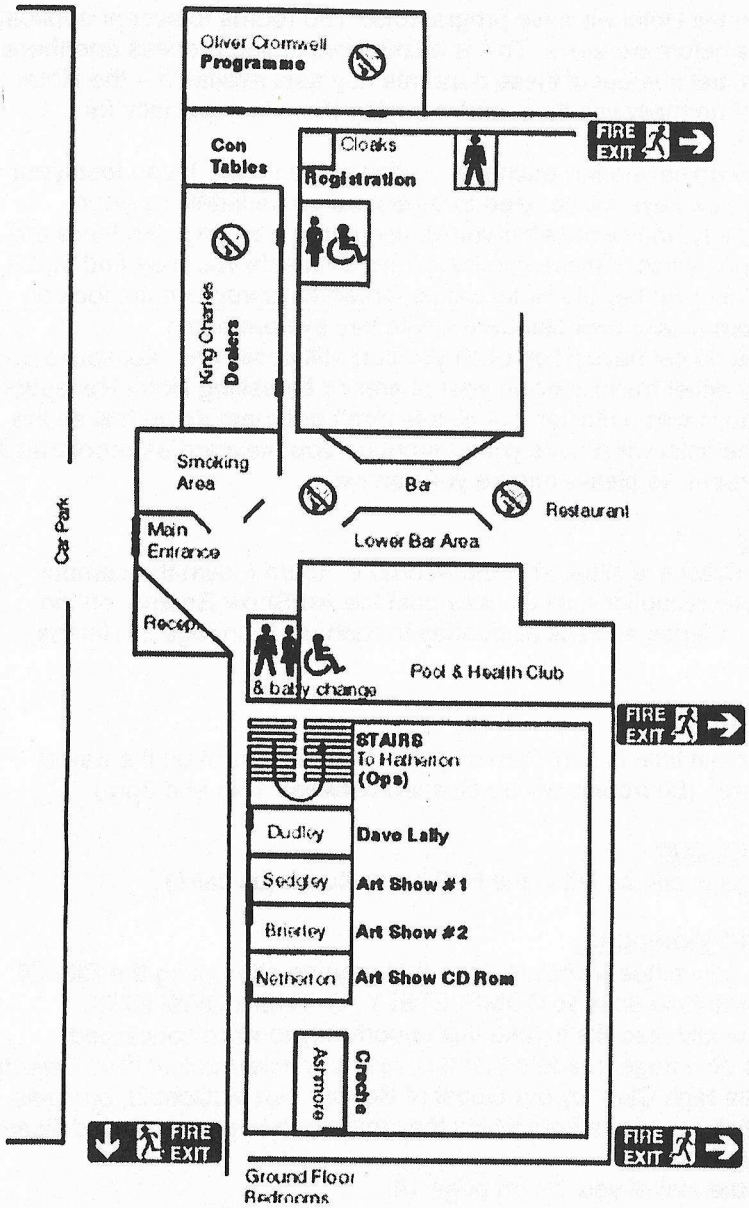
Luggage can be left in the Hatherton Room (upstairs).

Sex and Violence...

The committee wishes to state that anyone attempting the Rite Of The Astral Pole does so COMPLETELY AT THEIR OWN RISK.

We would also like to take this opportunity to warn concerned parents of younger readers that this year's special booklet "The Twenty Five Mile High Club" by our Guest of Honour, Ian McDonald, contains an explicit sex scene from which they may wish to protect their delicate offspring.

For the rest of you, it's on page 14.



[This publication was produced by Dave Hicks & Martin Tudor for Novacon 32, 1st-3rd November 2002, on behalf of the Birmingham Science Fiction Group (all rights revert to contributors on publication) Many thanks to everyone who has contributed .)